

OLIVER P. HOVEY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 659.]

JANUARY 10, 1857.

Mr. ZOLLICOFFER, from the Committee on Territories, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Territories have examined the memorial and affidavit of Oliver P. Hovey and the accompanying affidavits, from which it appears that on the 7th October, 1846, the said Hovey was employed by Charles Bent (then acting governor of the Territory of New Mexico) to print the code of laws for New Mexico which was promulgated by General Kearny, who, under instructions from the War Department, had established a civil government in New Mexico in that year. It appears that the said Hovey executed said printing, and delivered five hundred copies of the laws for the use of the government, according to contract, for which it had been agreed that he should be paid a reasonable compensation. That his bill of charges for the work amounted to \$1,705, but that Governor Bent having died before he (Hovey) had delivered but one hundred copies of the work, he had received but one hundred and fifty dollars of the amount, and has not since been able to prevail upon the government of New Mexico to pay him the balance, though he has repeatedly applied for the same. The petitioner prays that the remaining fifteen hundred and fifty-five dollars (\$1,555) be paid to him out of the treasury of the United States.

On examining the charges at the first session of this Congress, in the absence of testimony showing that the charges were reasonable, the committee asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial. But the affidavits of practical printers, resident in New Mexico, and of the chief justice of the supreme court of New Mexico, who supervised and corrected for the press the English part of this printing, together with the certificate of the Secretary of the Territory, all of which are hereto appended, (marked A,) which have since been submitted, satisfy the committee that the charges, under the then existing state of things in New Mexico, are reasonable, and ought long since to have been paid. The committee, therefore, beg leave to report the accompanying bill, and to ask its favorable consideration.

